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Summary record of the first part (public)* of the 2624th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 2 April 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Iwasawa

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* The summary record of the second part (closed) of the meeting appears as document CCPR/C/SR.2624/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

General comments of the Committee

Draft general comment No. 33 on the obligations of States parties under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR/C/GC/33)

1. **The Chairperson** reminded members that the English original of the draft general comment No. 33 on the obligations of States parties under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant had been adopted at the July 2008 session in Geneva; the French and Spanish texts were now available for adoption as well.

2. **Mr. Amor** said that the French text showed certain terminological problems that would need to be addressed before adoption, in particular in paragraphs 10, 12, 16 and 20. In the last sentence of paragraph 10, the French word "*véridiques*" did not seem to fit well with the rest of the sentence. He proposed something like "*crédibles*".

3. **Sir Nigel Rodley**, supported by **Mr. Thelin**, said that "*crédibles*" in French did not seem to correspond well with the English original "true". He warned against making changes that went beyond translation to affect the substance.

4. **Mr. Amor** said that the French translation "*véridiques*" had to be changed and proposed that the translation services review the paragraph and bring the French version into closer alignment with the English original. The Committee could adopt paragraph 10 subject to amendments that the translation services might make along the lines suggested.

5. Paragraph 12 also had a problem in the French version. The first sentence of the French had a reference to the English term "views", while the French translation, "*constatations*", was in a footnote, which made the French text seem less authentic than the English. All language texts must be treated and presented as equal.

6. **Sir Nigel Rodley** agreed that each language version should have its own term in the paragraph, with the information about the other languages in the footnote, not in the body of the paragraph.

7. **Mr. Amor** said that there was another problem with the French version of paragraph 12. The last sentence of the French text used the expression "*mentionne une réparation*", which was inappropriate. He proposed amending that to "*énonce une réparation*".

8. Paragraph 16 also had a problem in the French. The second sentence used the expression "*représentations écrites*", which meant nothing. He proposed amending that to "*communications écrites*".

9. The French text of paragraph 20 used, in its first sentence, the expression "*loi d'habilitation*", which had a technical meaning inappropriate to the text. He proposed deleting the words "*d'habilitation*".

10. **The Chairperson** said that, if he heard no further objections or amendments, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the French, as amended, and Spanish versions of general comment No. 33.

11. *The French, as amended, and Spanish texts of draft general comment No. 33 on the obligations of States parties under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights were adopted.*

The public part of the meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.